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CHAL-1002
Copy of 8

26 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR : Contracting Officer, DPD

SUBJECT : Recent Requirements Levied on Lockheed Aircraft Company in
Connection with Retention of U-2 Capability

1. In a conversation with Kelly Johnson on 25 May, we discussed, among other things, some of the tasks in connection with the U-2 that Mr. Bissell orally conveyed to Kelly within recent days. All of these chores are aimed at developing one or more alternatives to the use of foreign bases for staging. There are basically three requirements Kelly is now working to fill:

a. Develop cost estimates, engineering drawings, and a full proposal on modifications to the U-2 that would convert it to a drone (pilotless) aircraft.

b. Develop cost estimates and a fully staffed proposal on an air refueling capability in the U-2.

c. Develop cost estimates and an engineering proposal on those modifications required to enable the U-2 to operate from a Navy carrier. This last task is based in large part upon a feasibility study made some three or four years ago by Kelly on this very topic, and in all probability consists of updating data and costs.

2. Mr. Bissell, in my hearing, stated on 23 May that he wanted these estimates to proceed forthwith, and Kelly is moving accordingly. He would like, however, a paper from you giving authority for him to proceed within the frame of reference set forth above. I told him that I would seek you out and ask that this be done. Over to you.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Chief, Administrative Branch
DPD

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DPD-DD/P:JACunningham, Jr./mg